



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: HUMBLE, et al.  
Serial No. 10/688,675  
Filing Date: October 17, 2003  
Art Unit: 3739  
Title: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REMOVING A  
PROTECTIVE COVER FROM A MEDICAL  
INSTRUMENT**

**MAIL STOP** \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

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| <b>EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE</b><br><b>NO.: EV 324646945 US</b>  |                                     |
| I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. |                                     |
| Name:   | <u>Willie Jiles</u><br>Willie Jiles |
| Date:   | <u>February 27, 2004</u>            |

**EV324646945US**


**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Applicant respectfully requests, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, that the references listed on the attached PTO-1449 form be considered and cited in the examination of the above-identified patent application. Copies of these references are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner. Furthermore, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h), no representation is made that these references qualify as prior art or that these references are material to the patentability of the present application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted before an Office Action on the merits, and therefore, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no fee is believed to be due. If, however, a fee is due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.  
Attorneys for Applicant

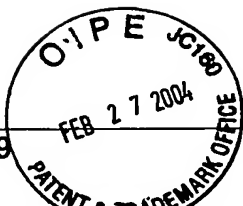


Thomas A. Beaton  
Reg. No. 46,543

Date: 2/27/04

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Customer Number: **05073**  
Attorney Docket No.: 017109.0360



|  |                                      |                                      |                                     |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| PTO-1449<br>Information Disclosure Citation<br>In an Application | Application No.<br><b>10/688,675</b> | Applicant(s)<br><b>HUMBLE et al.</b> |                                     |
|  | Docket Number<br><b>017109.0360</b>  | Group Art Unit<br><b>3739</b>        | Filing Date<br><b>Oct. 17, 2003</b> |

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

|   | DOCUMENT NO. | DATE       | NAME           | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE |
|---|--------------|------------|----------------|-------|----------|-------------|
| A | 5,466,898    | 11/14/1995 | Gilbert et al. | 181   | 131      | 03/20/1992  |
| B | 5,910,113    | 06/08/1999 | Pruter         | 600   | 437      | 03/24/1998  |
| C |              |            |                |       |          |             |
| D |              |            |                |       |          |             |
| E |              |            |                |       |          |             |
| F |              |            |                |       |          |             |
| G |              |            |                |       |          |             |
| H |              |            |                |       |          |             |
| I |              |            |                |       |          |             |
| J |              |            |                |       |          |             |
| K |              |            |                |       |          |             |
| L |              |            |                |       |          |             |
| M |              |            |                |       |          |             |
| N |              |            |                |       |          |             |

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## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

|   | DOCUMENT NO.    | DATE       | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION |    |
|---|-----------------|------------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|   |                 |            |         |       |          | YES         | NO |
| O | EP 0 788 777 A1 | 08/13/1997 | EPO     | A61B  | 19/08    | X           |    |
| P |                 |            |         |       |          |             |    |
| Q |                 |            |         |       |          |             |    |

|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
|   |  | DOCUMENT (Including Author, Title, Source, and Pertinent Pages)  |  |
| R |  | Notification of Transmittal of The International Search Report, for Application No. PCT/US03/33170, mailed February 16, 2004, authorized by Johannes Van Brummelen citing the above referenced documents (6 pages) |  |
| S |  |  |  |
| T |  |  |  |

|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
|----------|-----------------|

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.

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